Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00633 241321Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 241220Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2628

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECRET DOHA 0633

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IZ, QA

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ: BRIEFING OF QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER ON HABIB VISIT.

REF: STATE 115664

1. DURING MAY 23 DISCUSSION WITH QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI, I CONVEYED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL ON HABIB VISIT TO BAGHDAD. I INFORMED SUHAYM THAT GOI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI INDICATED IRAQ NOT RPT NOT YET READY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT WE HAD EXPECTED NO RPT NO DRAMATIC RESULTS FROM HABIB VISIT AND INDEED NONE WERE FORTHCOMING. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE, WE REGARDED THEM AS USEFUL, HOPED THEY WOULD CONTINUE, AND WE HAD AT LEAST BEGUN PROCESS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS.

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2. SUHAYM REITERATED HIS APPRECIATION OF OUR KEEPING GOQ SO CLOSELY INFORMED ON OUR INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. HE SAID THIS WAS A PRAISEWORTHY MOVE WHICH COULD NOT BUT HELP OUR MID EAST PEACE EFFORTS, AND OUR DESIRE TO GIVE AN ASSIST TO STABILITY IN GULF AREA. SUHAYM SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT WE WERE NOT RPT NOT DISCOURAGED BY TYPICAL IRAQI RIGIDITY AND PARANOIA. ACCORDING SUHAYM, IN HIS VIEW IRAQ GENUINELY

WANTED BETTER TIES WITH U.S. BUT, AS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS BROTHER ARABS, GOI FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE RIGHT APPROACH. SUHAYM UNDERTOOK TO HAVE A WORD WITH HAMMADI ON DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVING US/IRAQI RELATIONS NEXT TIME HE SAW HIM.
PAGANELLI

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TAGS: PFOR, IZ, QA, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (THANI, SHAYKH SUHAYM IBN HAMAD AL)

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